

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for Dounreay

Report for period 1 October to 31 December 2021

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Dounreay Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.



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1. Inspections

1.1. Dates of Inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October to 31 December 2021:

- 5 to 7 October 2021.
- 9 to 11 November 2021.
- 30 November to 2 December 2021.
- 7 to 9 December 2021.

2. Routine Matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Dounreay covered the following

- LC7 [Incidents on the site]
- LC11 [Emergency arrangements]
- LC22 [Control of modifications or experiments on existing plant]
- LC23 [Operating rules]
- LC24 [Operating instructions]
- LC27 [Safety mechanisms, devices, and circuits]
- LC28 [Examination, inspection, maintenance, and testing]
- LC32 [Accumulation of radioactive waste]
- LC34 [Leakage and escape of radioactive material and radioactive waste]
- LC36 [Organisational capability]

During the reporting period, ONR judged the arrangements made and implemented by the site in response to safety requirements to be satisfactory in the areas inspected. Where improvements have been identified, the licensee has made a commitment to address those issues, and ONR inspectors will closely monitor progress during future site inspections. Where necessary, ONR will take formal regulatory enforcement action to ensure that appropriate remedial measures are implemented to reasonably practicable timescales. Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records on our website www.onr.org.uk. Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

In addition, ONR conducted a formal review of the safety and security culture across the Dounreay site. This involved three teams of ONR Specialist Inspectors conducting interviews with focus groups covering all operational areas and all levels across the site. The data from that review is currently being assessed and ONR is scheduled to provide formal feedback to the site early in 2022.

ONR has continued to undertake assessment activities necessary to support the release of regulatory hold-points placed on a number of the projects on site. Specifically, ONR has recently completed a formal review of the technical justification supporting the transfer and processing of legacy liquors and expects to be in a position to release the regulatory hold-point placed on the commencement of processing activities early in 2022.

2.2. Other Work

During the period of this report, an inspection was undertaken to assess the adequate implementation of the safety justification supporting waste operations, specifically, the activities associated with the Low-Level Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant. ONR is satisfied that the limits and conditions of safe operation identified within the safety justification are adequately reflected within the plants operating documentation, the identification and maintenance of key safety systems and the training of plant operators and supervisors. ONR is also satisfied that the arrangements for the control and management of leakage and escape of radioactive liquids reflect the relevant good practice defined within ONR's guidance.

The site inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety, and welfare at work.

3. Non-Routine Matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

4. Regulatory Activity

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at www.onr.org.uk/onrnews

6. Contacts

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